HE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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OF RELIGION

WILLIAM AMES

Historians of early New England are coming to see that one of the most important persons in the settlement of the colonies was a man who never got there — William Ames. His importance lies in the fact that he was the thinker who shaped the thought of the leaders of the immigration.

Born in 1576 at Ipswich in England, he received his university education in Cambridge, where he came into touch with many of the leading Puritans of his time. He early came to be an exponent of what was sometimes called the "middle way" of church government. On the one hand he thought that Presbyterianism or Rule by Elders did not leave the congregations sufficient freedom, and on the other hand he was convinced that the way of the Separatists, who found their freedom completely outside of the traditional church, was a denial of Christian love. He was therefore a Non-Separating Congregationalist — and it was this philosophy of the Church which became the standard in New England.

Ames was a theologian primarily, but he was also a gifted teacher. The books he wrote are clear and easy to read even today, for they were written in text-book style, the contents set forth in a way which would make them good food for memory. Most of them were written in Latin, which was the language of scholarship of that day, but the two most popular of them, "The Marrow of Sacred Divinity" and "Cases of Conscience" were early translated into English.

Like so many of his Puritan associates he had to migrate to the Netherlands in order to escape the police forces of the English government of that day, who regarded Puritans as little better than traitors and subversives. It was while he was in that country that he did some of his best writing. It was there that he completed his "Marrow" in Latin. This was, according to some scholars, the first treatment of theology in the modern spirit, for here he did not begin with doctrines about God, but with the human fact of faith. This he made the basis of his system, and from this he discovered the character of God. In this he was like the great Schleiermacher, who, living a century and more later, became the father of modern theology. Ames was indeed a spiritual ancestor of Schleiermacher, because he influenced and gave shape to European pietism, and pietism influenced and gave shape to Schleiermacher. Ames has importance therefore not only for America but for the Continent, not to mention England itself.

After serving as professor at the University of Franeker in the Netherlands, whence he probably sent on to Harvard the motto "Christo et Ecclesiae", he started for the colonies but died at Rotterdam in 1633.

DEAN DOUGLAS HORTON

(From the Historical Address given by Dean Horton, at the Annual Meeting, April 10, 1959)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The annual luncheon and business meeting was duly held in Boston, April 10, at the Church of the New Jerusalem, near 14 Beacon Street, with a record attendance of eighy-eight governors, official delegates, historians, ministers, members and friends. President Arthur H. Bradford presided, and Rev. Raymond Calkins said grace. Rev. Albert J. Penner, chairman of the Executive Committee, introduced the guest of honor, Dean Douglas Horton, of the Harvard Divinity School, who read a scholarly paper on "William Ames: Architect of Congregational Thinking". Official greetings from the constituent bodies of the Society included Rev. Fred Hoskins, General Council; Rev. Howard Pomeroy, Congregational Library; Rev. John E. Wallace, Home Boards; Rev. James E. English, Superintendents' Conference; Rev. Fred F. Goodsell, the American Board. Every New England State Conference was officially represented; also the Commission on Evangelism, Board of Pastoral Supply, the Pilgrim Press, Missions Council, Office of Communications and theological seminaries. An interdenominational aspect was given by the presence of the Secretaries (Congregational) of the Massachusetts Bible Society, in its 150th year, and the Massachusetts Council of Churches; and by the presence of the host pastor. A personal letter of greeting from Mrs. Frederick L. Fagley and the presence of Mrs. Richard O. Ficken, sister of Dr. Fagley, added an emotional touch to the gathering.

At the head table were Mrs. Douglas Horton, Mrs. Raymond Calkins, and Mrs. Arthur Bradford. Other well known church women were present. The attendance and participation of younger ministers and theological students were symbolized by the work of James A. Bradford, Recording Secretary, and the token salute to Robert Hoskins, by President Bradford. The historic church in Ipswich now in its 325th year was represented by Mrs. Elbert T. Titcomb and Mrs. Richard MacDougal, who were introduced. Attention was called to the presence of twenty-one pastors, five of whom represented 17th century churches: First, Charlestown, 1632; First, Cambridge, 1633; First, Newton, 1664; Old South, 1669; Bradford, 1682. Churches also represented were Second, Dorchester, 1808; famed Park Street, now celebrating its sesquicentennial; Neponset, in the midst of its centennial. Greetings came from the minister of the church in Hadley, Mass., now in its 300th year. Messages were received from Miss Helen Kenyon, a Vice-President for seven years, and from the historical society of the E and R Church. Salutations from the Minister of the International Congregational Council, London, and the Secretary of the English Historical Society suggested "hands across the sea."

The business meeting, opened with prayer b Dr. Rockwell Harmon Potter, included inspirin reports from the President, Treasurer, Secretar and Executive Committee. Upon recommend tion of the Chairman of the Nominating Com mittee, Superintendent Clark, Maine, the fo lowing officers were elected: President, Arthu H. Bradford; Vice-Presidents, Fred Field Goo sell and Roland H. Bainton; Treasurer, James H Lightbourne; Secretary, Vaughan Dabne Librarian, John A. Harrer. Representatives c constituent bodies were elected to the Board c Governors.

Dean Mervin M. Deems, Bangor Seminar moved a rising vote of thanks to the guest le turer Dr. Douglas Horton, former Minister c the General Council, soon to retire as Dean c the Harvard Divinity School. This motion wa heartily adopted, and the hope was expresse that the address on "William Ames" be pul lished. Upon motion of Dr. C. C. Merrill it wa voted to request the President to appoint representative committee to gather and file wit the Society data on the steps leading to th formation of the new United Church of Chris Rev. Clifford O. Simpson gave a report of pro ress on placing historical markers in Englan and America. Dr. Arvel M. Steece, a Fellow c the Society, wrote regarding the publication c a revision of the valued pamphlet on the writin of local church history by Dr. Charles J. Ke nedy. The Secretary announced the recent ap pointment as a Fellow of Prof. Harland H Hogue, Pacific School of Religion, and requeste the Fellows of the Society to give attention to new book or the need for reprints of classi works of Congregational history especially fo theological students, a point also made by Supe intendent English of Connecticut.

Since the Secretary did not read his full re port he was requested to make it available. Rev R. W. Coe and Rev. Ross Cannon, Committe on Arrangements, Rev. Antony Regamey, hos pastor, and Miss Carrie Powell, the new researc secretary, were warmly thanked.

In his report the President set the tone fo the business meeting by speaking of our Societ which first existed in the imagination of Fre Fagley, "whose presence seems very real at th meeting, and whose benediction rests upon ou work and new leadership." After the Mizpa benediction the meeting was adjourned to vis the 17th century exhibit at the Library and th new office of the Society. The enthusiasm show at this important annual gathering indicated tha the seven years of plenty enjoyed by the Societ under our beloved Fred Fagley are not likely t be followed by seven years of famine. Th singing of the Bay Psalm Book version of Psal 23, under the leadership of John Harrer, earl in the meeting, was a moving affirmation of ou continuing dependence upon the God of ou fathers.

What a wonderful Annual Meeting of the Congregational Christian Historical Society!

FRED HOSKINS

With a successful Annual Meeting accomplished and the office in Boston well established the Society is in excellent condition to render needed services. The inadvertent use of the word reminds the treasurer the Society needs contributions from members old and new.

JAMES H. LIGHTBOURNE

Some of our churches are moving forward into the fellowship of the United Church. Some are choosing another course. All of us, however, cherish our Congregational Christian history, ideals and spirit. These facts mean opportunity and responsibility for our Historical Society.

PRES. ARTHUR H. BRADFORD
(from his address at the Annual Meeting)

I have always read the News Letter, particularly because of my interest in Congregational history and shall continue to do so. I think the format fine.

WILLIAM COOLIDGE HART
Associate editor, Christian Century, Chicago

A Significant Anniversary

The 325th anniversary exercises, May 3-10, of The First Trinitarian Congregational Church, Scituate, Mass., included addresses by Pres. Albert J. Penner and Secretary Paul B. Myers, of the State Conference. Led by a drummer, as in olden days, children in Colonial garb joined adults in a pilgrimage to the site of the original church building on Meeting House Lane, where Rev. Samuel Young, pastor, placed a wreath on the monument that marked the spot. On May 10, the minister conducted a communion service of rededication. This anniversary observance calls to mind the manner in which the histories of town and church coincided in colonial days.

Historians added in 1959

The plea for more local church historians in the last *News Letter* resulted in the appointment of seventeen more to add to our list. The historian has the important duty, not only of collecting and preserving records, but also of keeping members informed of their local and national heritage, ever a challenge to serve the present age. Herewith is the list:

Fullerton, Calif., Congregational Church of Fullerton. Mrs. Bertel Johnson.
Whittier, Calif., Hillcrest Congregational Church. Mrs. Marion B. Dice.
Denver, Colo., Park Hill Congregational Church. Miss Ruth P. Loucks.
E. Hartford, Conn., South Congregational Church. Miss Ruth Hill.
Hamden, Conn., Dunbar United Church. Mrs. Wm. F. Urbach.
Cresco, Iowa, Summit Congregational Church. Mrs. Ray Webber.
Dubuque, Iowa, Summit Congregational Church. Miss Grace Williams.
Bath, Maine, Central Congregational Church. Mrs. Rudolph C. McRae.
E. Princeton, Mass., First Congregational Christian Church. Mrs. Donald Slongwhite.
Newton, Mass., First Church. Mr. Farnum Rockwood.
Stoughton, Mass., First Congregational Church. Mr. Adrean Krul.
Swansea, Mass., First Congregational Church. Miss Mary W. Arnold.
Excelsior, Minn., Minnewashta Union Congregational Church. Mrs. Lloyd F. Mann.
Garden City, N. Y., Garden City Community Church. Miss Marion Templeton.
Walton, N. Y., First Congregational Church. Miss Sarah E. Pond.
Knoxville, Tenn., First Congregational Church. Miss Margaret Wright.
Norfolk, Va., First United Church (Congregational Christian). Miss Virginia Graves.

A WHITSUNDAY PRAYER

Almighty and most merciful God, grant, we beseech thee, that, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we may be enlightened and strengthened for thy service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

California Items

Dr. Harland E. Hogue, Carl Patton Professor of Homiletics, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, has accepted appointment as a Fellow of our Society. . . . The three-year-old Fullerton Church, Rev. R. W. Bryant, minister, has named as its historian Mrs. Bertel Johnson. . . . Rev. Henry R. Rust, of Whittier (Hillcrest) founded in 1955, has written that the church historian is Mrs. Marion B. Dice.

Southern Contacts

On a trip to Southern colleges in January, the Secretary visited the Christian Church historical depository at Elon College and conferred with Pres. James E. Danieley and Mrs. Oma U. Johnson, historian, who value materials forwarded from the former office in New York by Miss Helen Kenyon. Society matters were discussed with Supt. William T. Scott, a member of our Executive Committee. . . . In Charleston, S. C., a visit was made to the old Circular Congregational Church, founded in 1681, Rev. William R. Barnhart, pastor. . . . On Sunday, Feb. 2, the Secretary participated in the service with Rev. A. R. Meserve, minister of the First Congregational Church, Knoxville, Tenn., founded only two years ago. The newly appointed church historian is Miss Margaret Wright. . . . The old First Christian Church, Norfolk, Va., founded in 1846, is now known as the First United Church (Congregational Christian) according to the pastor, Rev. O. B. Pendleton. The newly appointed church historian is Miss Virginia Graves.

Welcome additions are:

A lovely photograph of the new sanctuary of the First Congregational Church, Springfield, Ill., Rev. Virgil E. Myers, pastor, the dedicatory sermon being given on Jan. 25, by Rev. Fred Hoskins, Secretary of the General Council. Our thanks to Mrs. Phil Vance, the Church Historian.

An attractively printed 30-page Centennial History of the Congregational Church in Mason City, Iowa, Rev. Ralph Casebolt, minister. Here is the opening paragraph in the history by Kathleen H. and Robert H. Shepard: " Eleven people and a part-time preacher. A Declaration of Principles, a Confession of Faith, a solemn Covenant with God and fellow man. The First Congregational Church of Mason City, Iowa, was officially organized. The date was March 7, 1858."

Historical material about sesquicentennial observances this year of famed Park Street Church, Boston, on " Brimstone Corner," Rev. Harold J. Okenga, minister, founded by the fathers of two illustrious Americans — Telegraph inventor S. F. B. Morse and Poet-scientist-author Oliver Wendell Holmes in 1831. "America" was first sung in Park Street Church, July 4, 1832.

Minutes of the Ecclesiastical Councils of the Aurora Association in Illinois sent by Lee W. Shaddle, Registrar, Plano, Ill., relative to the ordination of Rev. David E. Bigelow, Yorkville Federated, and of Rev. John Arden Wild, Rollo Congregational.

Proudly We Hail!

The first issue of " World Congregationalism," organ of The International Council, London, Rev. Ralph F. G. Calder, Minister and Secretary.

The first issue of " The Missionary Herald," News Letter of the American Board, "An old masthead with a new magazine."

" The Courier " (Vol. 36, No. 1) monthly newspaper of the Congregational Churches of New Zealand.

We also proudly hail those unsung donors who faithfully forward individual, church and organizational dues.

Salutations to Mrs. Oma U. Johnson, capable curator of the Church History Room, Elon College, North Carolina, who has in her keeping an original copy of the " Herald of Gospel Liberty " founded in Portsmouth, N. H., in 1808, the first religious Journal printed in America.

Our thanks to Miss Janet Robertson, historian Second Church Dorchester, Mass., for a copy of the charge that was used by Rev. John Danforth at the ordination of Deacons Hopestill Clap and Nathaniel Topliff in 1724.

Rev. Melvin L. Frank, First Congregational Church, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, the recipient of a purse from his church members on the 25th anniversary of his ordination, from which gift he sent a contribution to our Society.

Rev. H. Allyn Ulseth, Minnewashta Union Congregational Church, Excelsior, Minn., announces the appointment of Mrs. Lloyd F. Mann as historian.

A Few Quotes

I wish to commend you for the splendid annual meeting of the Society and should very much like a copy of your own report. Mr. Harold O. T. Brown, 18 Centre St., Cambridge (student at Harvard), expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Society.

GEORGE H. WILLIAMS
Professor, Harvard Divinity School

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A Review

Your Secretary has held office for exactly one ndred days, during which he has tried to keep ffic moving while the tracks were being fted. A review of recent events is more appriate, therefore, than a discussion of plans l policies. Since January 1 the Society and Library have enjoyed a happy and effective liation as predestined partners. Each has its n board, budget, personnel and tasks. Yet matters historical the resources of both have en made available for the service of our rches. By common consent the Library eed to provide quarters for the Society. rious ambitious plans were considered and ictantly abandoned because of structural ards or excessive costs. By request of the retary a modest area on the mezzanine floor the stacks was renovated, provided with new ctrical fixtures and a telephone, adequately nished, so that early in the year the office was n for business. In similar fashion a larger ce on the same floor was prepared for the use the office assistant, Miss Carrie Powell, who agreement gives part time as research secry for Mr. Harrer, the Librarian, to compsate for rent free accommodations of the iety. In harmonious cooperation the Secry, Librarian and Assistant form a happy and easingly effective team. The winter *News* ter, prepared under pressure, met the dead-, and the 6,000 recipients apparently ived it with customary Congregational retice. There has been no reserve, however, on part of members who forward gifts, and of rches, some only a few years old, who are ointing new historians. May their tribe inse! Arrangements were duly made for the ual meeting, the first held since the Society ed to Boston. In consultation with the ident and various chairmen of committees s were laid for securing a large and repreative attendance to consider important items usiness.

A Question

n our last *News Letter* the word modest often and appropriately used by various ributors to describe our quarters, budget, onnel and purpose. Our modesty is indeed ous when we recall that the General mbly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. ides an annual grant of $70,000 for work of its historical society, and the erican Baptist Convention has available 000 a year for its historical society, recently cated at the Colgate Rochester Theological ol. Our Society is small, yet there are those love it! It is the national organization of a omination rich in history and tradition. It growing membership, distinguished officers and a representative Board of Governors. The names of over 1,000 local church historians are on file. The Library is a treasure trove of books on 17th century Congregationalism, and the impressive building at 14 Beacon Street compares favorably with similar houses of other denominations over the country. A certain amount of modesty is becoming, too much betokens timidity. Our Society was not born to blush unseen in the somber stacks of the Library. The removal to Boston was an advance, not a retreat. The Secretaryship is supposed to be a part-time position, but it engages my constant and undivided attention. Fresh contacts are being made and new avenues of service are opening. The vigor and imagination of Fred Fagley must not perish. His animating spirit urges us on. Just how modest should our Society be in its dreams and hopes and plans? With you lie the answers to such questions.

A Plea

I count it a privilege and an honor to have been called to implement arrangements previously made between the Society and the Library, advocated by our officers and approved by the Executive Committee of the General Council. I enter upon my task with humility mingled with a holy boldness. I rejoice in the widespread interest shown and in assurances of support from various quarters. I love my work and pray that I may meet your high expectations. We foresee no drastic changes and dramatic accomplishments, but rather a progressive development. To realize these expectations your prayerful thought and earnest endeavor are sought. Be patient when the machinery squeaks, read and pass along the *News Letter*, enlist new members, appoint new historians. Forward comments, criticisms and a few compliments now and then. By all means let us relate historical perspective to immediate concerns. Too many Congregationalists are bored by history, indifferent to church anniversaries and totally ignorant of the scope of both Library and Society. Even ministers, alas, many of them younger men, fail to bring to bear upon modern problems the lessons of history. We are called to address ourselves to urgent tasks with evangelistic fervor. We are to make known the resources available at 14 Beacon Street and to encourage visitors, who are always welcome. There is great need for inexpensive reprints of standard works on our history, especially among theological students and ministers who come to us from other denominations. For example, the classic by Atkins and Fagley is out of print. Perhaps the Fellows of the Society can help here. Our Congregational Christian churches have much to contribute to the ecumenical movement. To the many friends of our Society, and to my immediate associates, let me extend my heartfelt thanks for their kind understanding and practical assistance.

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The Budget of the Society

Anticipated Expenses

Tel. & Tel.	$ 10
Annual Meeting	30
Executive Comm.	30
Printing & Mimeo.	65
Office Expense	1,20
Salaries	4,97
Contingencies	20
Annuity & Soc. Security	31
	$8,03

Membership in the Society

1. Contributing National and State ag cies are voting members of the Soci and name representatives to the Bo of Governors.
2. Churches contributing $10.00 or more year become full voting members those contributing less become associ members of the Society.
3. Individuals contributing $5.00 or m per year become sustaining (voti members and those contributing less come associates of the Society.

All contributors receive the *News Le* and other publications and reports of Society.

NOTE: Contributions approved for Inco Tax Credit by U. S. Income Tax Bure

A Gentle Reminder

Individual members, sustainin churches and National and State sup porting agencies are kindly requeste to forward payments promptly to th new office in Boston, and also to us their influence in spreading news o our Society and in securing ne friends.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Arthur H. Bradford, *President* — James H. Lightbourne, *Treasurer* — Vaughan Dabney, *Secretary*

14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

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THE SUMMER NEWS LETTER

the congregational christian historical society

Organized October 15, 1952

14 BEACON STREET
BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS

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TO THE FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY

September, 1959

Greetings:

Once again we are happy to send you the "Summer News Letter" to quicken interest, give a report and make a request. Our headings are from that familiar hymn written in 1755 by Philip Doddridge, for twenty-two years minister of the Chapel Hill Congregational Church, Northampton, England.

AWAKE, MY SOUL
"To quicken interest"

Lest our Society become somnolent we must reverse the trend indicated in these words of Frederick L. Fagley, "We have become somewhat complacent towards our heritage." To be awake to the needs of the present, we must be aware of the deeds of the past. Only when we are mindful of a cloud of witnesses, are we able to run with patience our own race. Local church historians, therefore, serve a very useful purpose.

STEPS ALREADY TROD
"To give a report"

The past eight months have been exacting and eventful ones with the establishment of the Boston office, and the appointment both of a Secretary and a Research Assistant. In collaboration with the Library staff, progress has been made in filing old materials and new accessions. Valuable data relating to the steps leading up to the merger are being added to the Library collection by a representative committee authorized at the Annual Meeting. Such material will be invaluable to future church historians. Letters have been sent to the 202 churches which will celebrate important anniversaries next year.

PRESS WITH VIGOR ON
"To make a request"

An urgent one, we may say! It concerns the annual appeal approved for the month of September by the Missions Council. The adopted budget is $8025, sufficient for basic needs and the absorption of the non-recurring items of removal costs and new office equipment. The Society has never had a deficit, but often enforced economy has made us miss attractive opportunities for service. Nearly one-half of the budget is expected from the General Council, the Boards and the Conferences, while the balance must come from churches and individuals. Last year these contributors included one hundred seventy-one churches and one hundred sixty-seven individuals, a faithful group whose tribe should increase! Pastors are requested to give publicity to this letter, and to encourage church and individual support. A cordial, generous and prompt financial response will encourage us to stretch every nerve and press with vigor on.

Fraternally yours,

Arthur H. Bradford	Albert J. Penner	James H. Lightbourne	Vaughan Dabney
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